

their difficulties were overcome, and they now nothing to do but go home, and tell their father the prosperity of their journey. While they are encouraging in themselves the pleasing thoughts, they looked back, and saw Joseph's steward, and a company of men with him following hard after them. The meaning of which they could not possibly interpret. But, being conscious they had done no harm while in Egypt, they immediately stopped short, and waited till they were overtaken. The Steward, when he came up with them, began to accuse them, having robbed his master. The guilt of which was exceedingly aggravated by all the kind of evidence which had been shewn to them:—"Wherefore sayest thou, have ye rewarded evil for good? but ye have not taken my Lord's silver cup, out of which he drinketh continually? and by which, indeed, through some secret power, he can find out dark and unknown things."

At these words, they were struck with astonishment, and as soon as they had collected themselves, they argued the matter with him, and urged the impropriety of his charge.

"God forbid! that thy servants should do such a thing. Has not our former conduct been such, as might remove every suspicion of guilt from us? Did we not bring back to Egypt the money which we found in our sacks; though, indeed, we were assured, that we had faithfully paid the price of the corn unto my Lord? Nay, to give you a farther proof of our innocence, we are contented to submit to a general search, and let him, upon whom you find the cup, die! and the rest of us, as accomplices in the offence, will be your bond slaves for ever!" Ah! poor men, little did they know, what they said, and what misery would have been entailed upon them and their families, if their own proposition had been attended.